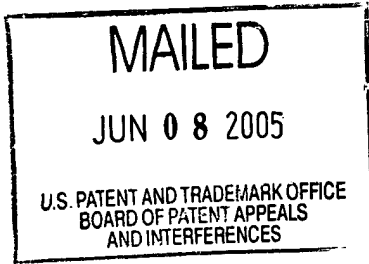


UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES

Ex parte BRENDA POMERANCE

Application No. 09/543,049

ORDER RETURNING UNDOCKETED APPEAL TO EXAMINER

This application was electronically received at the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences on May 11, 2005. A review of the application has revealed that the application is not ready for docketing as an appeal. Accordingly, the application is herewith being returned to the examiner. The matters requiring attention prior to docketing are identified below:

A review of the file indicates that on December 3, 2004, appellants filed an Appeal Brief under the rules set forth in 37 CFR § 1.192(c). However, the rules under 35 U.S.C. § 1.192(c) were abolished on September 13, 2004, and replaced by 37 CFR § 41.37(c). Accordingly, the Appeal Brief filed on December 4, 2004 does not comply with the new rules under 37 CFR § 41.37(c).

37 CFR § 41.37(c) states:

(c)(1) The brief shall contain the following items under appropriate headings and in the order indicated

in paragraphs (c)(1)(I) through (c)(1)(x) of this section, except that a brief filed by an appellant who is not represented by a registered practitioner need only substantially comply with paragraphs (c)(1)(i) through (c)(1)(iv) and (c)(1)(vii) through (c)(1)(x) of this section:

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(ix) *Evidence appendix.* An appendix containing copies of any evidence submitted pursuant to §§ 1.130, 1.131, 1.132 of this title or of any other evidence entered by the examiner and relied upon by appellant in the appeal, along with a statement setting forth where in the record that evidence was entered in the record by the examiner. Reference to unentered evidence is not permitted in the brief. See § 41.33 for treatment of evidence submitted after appeal. This appendix may also include copies of the evidence relied upon by the examiner as to grounds of rejection to be reviewed on appeal.

(x) *Related proceedings appendix.* An appendix containing copies of decisions rendered by a court or the Board in any proceeding identified pursuant to paragraph (c)(1)(ii) of this section.

(2) A brief shall not include any new or non-admitted amendment, or any new or non-admitted affidavit or other evidence. See § 1.116 of this title for amendments, affidavits or other evidence filed after final action but before or with any appeal and § 41.33 for amendments, affidavits or other evidence filed after the date of the appeal.

(d) If a brief is filed which does not comply with all the requirements of paragraph (c) of this section, appellant will be notified of the reasons for non-compliance and given a time period within which to file an amended brief. If appellant does not file an amended brief within the set time period, or files an amended brief which does not overcome all the reasons for non-compliance stated in the notification, the appeal will stand dismissed.

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A review of the application reveals that the following sections are missing from the Appeal Brief filed December 4, 2004:

(1) "Evidence appendix," as set forth in 37 CFR § 41.37(c)(1)(ix); and

(2) "Related proceedings appendix," as set forth in 37 CFR § 41.37(c)(1)(x).

It is required that a substitute Appeal Brief be submitted that is in compliance with 37 CFR § 41.37(c). For more information on the Board's new rules, please see the web page entitled "More Information on the Rules of Practice Before the BPAI," Final Rule at:

<http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/dcom/bpai/fr2004/moreinfo.html>.

Accordingly, it is

ORDERED that the application is returned to the examiner to:

(1) hold the Appeal Brief filed on December 3, 2004 defective;

(2) to notify appellants to file a substitute Appeal Brief in compliance with 37 CFR § 41.37;

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(3) for the examiner to consider the substitute Appeal Brief and, if necessary, vacate the Examiner's Answer mailed on February 15, 2005 and issue a new Examiner's Answer; and

(4) for such further action as may be appropriate.

BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES

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